

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 032315 /44
O 161904Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8858

S E C R E T LONDON 20382

EXDIS

FROM REINHARDT

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV, EGEN, RH
SUBJECT: APPROACH TO DONORS ON ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND

1. NKOMO, ACCOMPANIED BY CHINAMANO, RECEIVED ME LATE TODAY IN HIS HOTEL SUITE. I OUTLINED THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND, USING ALMOST VERBATIM THE TALKING POINTS IN PARAGRAPH 7 OF REFTEL.

2. NKOMO RESPONDED THAT HE FOUND THE IDEAS ABOUT THE FUND VERY "ATTRACTIVE" AND STATED THAT THE EXPLANATION REMOVED MANY OF THE DOUBTS HE HAD GAINED FROM READING NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS. SEEMED TO HIM TO BE A UNIQUE ASSISTANCE CONCEPT AND HE HOPED WE AND UK WOULD HAVE SUCCESS IN ATTRACTING DONORS. "ON ITS FACE THIS FUND SEEMS TO BE MOST ACCEPTABLE," HE SAID.

3. HE THEN INQUIRED ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND, ITS CONTROL, THE ROLE OF INDIVIDUAL DONOR NATIONS ("NO NATION GIVES SOMETHING FOR NOTHING"), WHETHER LOANS OR GRANTS, AND ZIMBABWE'S "RIGHTS" UNDER THE TERMS OF THE
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FUND.

4. I POINTED OUT THAT HE WAS RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT A PROPOSAL VIRTUALLY IN ITS CONCEPTUAL STAGE, FUNDS NOT BEING AVAILABLE UNTIL DONORS MAKE DECISIONS TO CONTRIBUTE. OBVIOUSLY MANY DETAILS REMAIN AND CANNOT BE SETTLED

UNTIL DONORS AND AMOUNTS ARE DETERMINED. I REPEATED THAT PROGRAMS WILL NOT BE DECIDED UNILATERALLY BY DONORS AND THAT THEY WOULD BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE EXERCISING ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS. HE SEEMED SATISFIED AND RAISED NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.

5. AT NO POINT DID NKOMO REPEAT HIS PUBLIC ATTACK ON THE FUND. HE LISTENED CAREFULLY TO MY EXPLANATION THAT THE FUND IS NOT A BUY-OUT OR COMPENSATION SCHEME FOR EUROPEANS, BUT HE NEITHER COMMENTED NOR RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PART OF THE DISCUSSION.

6. AS I PARTED NKOMO REQUESTED A WRITTEN STATEMENT ABOUT THE FUND, WHICH HE HOPED COULD BE PASSED TO HIM BY OUR EMBASSY IN LUSAKA, WHERE HE WILL BE AT SOME POINT BEFORE HIS RETURN TO GENEVA.

SPIERS

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL OMITTED. SERVICE ON REQUEST.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FUND ALLOTMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON20382
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760463-0589
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761237/aaaabfzn.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPROACH TO DONORS ON ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND
TAGS: PDEV, EGEN, RH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006